

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Science Festival at Paramount Ranch**  
**April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**The Science in Your Backyard**

**Saturday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
**Schedule and Activities**

*Come and learn about what scientists do in your local backyard! The National Park Service along with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California Science Center, Children's Nature Institute, and UCLA La Brea Tar Pits and Research Center for California Conservation want to inspire the current and next generation to become stewards and scientists of our natural resources at the 2012 Science Festival hosted at Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills, California. Scientists from Cabrillo National Monument, Channel Islands National Park, and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will be on hand to present their work and answer any questions you will have about our amazing native plants and animals.*

**NPS Scheduled Talks/Presentations**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Title</b>
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Irina Irvine (SAMO)	Native Plants and Invasive Weeds
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	David Kushner (CHIS)	Three Decades of Kelp Forest Monitoring
12:45 pm – 1:30pm	Benjamin Pister (CABR)	Rocky Intertidal
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Rosi Dagit (RCD)	Tracking Turtles Through the Santa Monica Mountains
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Tim Coonan (CHIS)	Saving the Island Fox
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Seth Riley (SAMO)	Mountain Lions in the Santa Monica Mountains

**Descriptions of NPS Scheduled Talk / Presentations**

In the Santa Monica Mountains, biologists are on alert for invasive plants invading the natural landscape. Listen to Restoration Ecologist, **Irina Irvine**, talk about the wonders of native plants, including their adaptations that truly make them the perfect plants for your garden, and the fight she's waging to clean the natural ecosystem of these noxious invasive plants spreading throughout the mountains.

Did you know that just off the coast in Southern California, a forest as diverse as the tropical rainforest exists under the water? Over 1000 species of plants and animals live in the giant kelp forest. **David Kushner**, Marine Biologist for Channel Islands National Park, will be presenting an overview of the park's 30 years of long-term monitoring work in the kelp forests.

Join **Benjamin Pister**, Marine Biologist with Cabrillo National Monument, as he presents interesting facts and lessons learned from over 20 years of monitoring the amazing creatures that inhabit the rocky intertidal zone, or commonly referred to as tidepools. This special habitat is a window into the ocean where a variety of plants and animals live between the land and the sea.

Updated: April 4, 2012

Ever wonder how far a turtle moves? Lead biologist **Rosi Dagit** of the Resource Conservation District knows! She's been tracking native Western Pond Turtles in the Santa Monica Mountains for the past several years and will be presenting her work at the Science Festival.

The island fox has quite a story to tell! Almost driven to extinction by predation and disease, the island fox population is on the rebound thanks to **Tim Coonan**, Wildlife Biologist for the Channel Islands National Park, and his team of "fox techs". Tim will present his years of work to save the island fox from the brink of extinction.

Lions in Los Angeles? You betcha! **Seth Riley**, Wildlife Ecologist at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, will be presenting an overview and the latest results from the park's mountain lion project.

Updated: April 4, 2012